

Law Enforcement Division
Bi-Weekly Field Report
11/25/13 – 12/8/13

DISTRICT 1

CO Trey Luce checked a local deer processor after firearm deer season. Several suspicious firearm license purchases led to one of the subjects being checked at his residence. The hunter purchased two firearm licenses in November, one in the second week of the firearm season. A short interview led to a second buck in the subject's garage with the second tag attached. The deer and rifle were seized and the hunter was issued a ticket for taking an overlimit of deer and purchasing more licenses than allowed.

COs Elton Luce and Mark Leadman responded to a complaint near Marquette of a safety zone violation. Their investigation led to neighboring Alger County where they located two subjects whose violations included hunting after hours, hunting within a safety zone, improper tagging and trespassing. Empty beer cans and alcohol caps found on the drag trail were addressed with tickets issued for littering as well.

CO Ryan Aho continued working Commercial Forest Land (CFL) where the owners reported damage to gates and trees. CO Aho located an ORV that had made its way around a gate between two large rocks and over a hill. The operator was ticketed for ORV trespass. On another section of the CFL, CO Aho located a hunter in an illegal blind hunting over a large illegal bait pile. The hunter had created his own road through the woods, bypassing the gate. That hunter received two tickets and instruction on Commercial Forest laws.

CO Matt Eberly is investigating a complaint of a small wolf being shot in the Copper Harbor area. An unknown hunter called a local taxidermist in an attempt to sell the wolf to the taxidermist. The hunter said he wanted to continue wolf hunting and shoot a larger wolf than the one he harvested.

CO Brian Bacon reported that an individual who shot a deer at night with a crossbow was recently sentenced in Dickinson County. The individual was immediately ordered to serve five days in jail, forfeit his crossbow, pay reimbursement of \$1000 plus fines and costs, and lost his hunting privileges for the next three years.

CO Grant Emery responded to the complaint of two subjects with four possible illegal deer in possession. CO Emery was able to locate the deer and interview the two suspects. None of the four deer were tagged. Multiple charges are being sought, including the taking of antlerless deer in a DMU closed to antlerless deer harvest and multiple tag violations.

CO Jason Wicklund responded to a complaint of a wolf collar in mortality mode in Gogebic County. The CO located the signal of the collar coming from a river, but due to

heavy snow and ice, was unable to retrieve it. After a few days of rain and warmer temperatures, the CO returned with wildlife personnel and recovered the collar a short distance from the bridge. The collar was cut deliberately and thrown into the river. The investigation is ongoing.

DISTRICT 2

After checking on a camp with multiple violations and finding no one there, COs Brett Gustafson and Kyle Publiski checked a hunter from the suspect camp a short distance away. A check of the hunter in his illegal blind on state land revealed an overlimit of bait on each of his three shooting lanes and no hunter orange. The subject was ticketed and directed to remove his illegal blind and bait piles.

CO Brett Gustafson worked a shift with an intern from Lake Superior State University. During the patrol they contacted three deer hunters driving down a back road where numerous complaints of shooting from vehicles had been received. The father was driving; his young son was next to him, and the driver's brother sat by the open sliding door on the minivan. The gun was unloaded and in a case by the time CO Gustafson got to the frantically moving hunter in the backseat.

CO Kevin Postma and Sgt. Gerald Thayer deployed the deer decoy in a complaint area frequented by road hunters. One hunter, while driving to his stand, noticed the deer and skidded to a stop in the roadway. CO Postma approached the vehicle from the rear and looked in the windows to find the hunter frantically uncasing and loading his rifle. After the rifle was loaded CO Postma determined he had seen enough and knocked on the window, after knocking on the window a second time the hunter finally noticed CO Postma standing there and reality set in. The hunter was ticketed for possessing an uncased/loaded firearm in a motor vehicle.

CO Mike Hammill was following up on a complaint of several hunters hearing late shots the last night of the firearm season. CO Hammill pulled into a suspect camp in the complaint area and immediately observed a bloody drag mark to a butchering pole just outside the camp yard. The CO followed the drag in both directions. A short walk revealed that the individual hunting at the camp illegally harvested a doe the last night of season. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol, CO Jeff Panich stopped at a deer camp and observed a spike horn buck hanging from a buck pole. Upon inspection of the deer, the CO observed the deer was tagged with a firearm license. CO Panich made contact with the camp cook, who stated that the successful hunter was out hunting and told the CO where his blind was located. CO Panich walked to the blind, and contacted the hunter. The hunter explained he had already shot his deer and did not have a license but was still hunting. The subject also was not wearing any hunter orange, and was hunting out of an illegal blind. Enforcement action was taken. Prior to leaving the area, the CO was told of another hunter from the camp and was asked to walk by the blind to let that hunter know what was happening. Upon making contact with the second hunter, CO Panich

found this hunter also did not have a hunting license, was not wearing hunter orange and was hunting out of an illegal blind as well. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Publiski was on routine patrol when a shot rang out close by. The CO attempted to locate where the shot had come from and eventually found tracks in the snow. Upon following the tracks he found a hunter who had a combination license for kill tags and decided to illegally shoot a three point buck. Subject was ticketed.

While on patrol CO Michael Evink located a pickup truck near the dead end of a county road. CO Evink observed numerous bundles of Balsam boughs in the bed of the truck. After locating the owner of the truck cutting additional boughs, CO Evink informed the individual that he was on private property. The individual acknowledged he did not have permission from the landowner to cut boughs. CO Evink contacted the landowner to confirm that no one had permission to be on the posted property. Enforcement action is being taken for the larceny of tree boughs.

CO Michael Evink was on his way to investigate a complaint when, due to icy road conditions, he changed his route and plans and turned down a lake access road. CO Evink observed a vehicle parked at the edge of the lake, and two people fishing on the very thin ice. Once contact was made it was evident that the anglers did not expect to see the CO. They were using 11 total tip-ups, five over the legal limit. Both were issued tickets for fishing with too many lines.

CO Jerry Fitzgibbon was on patrol when he observed fresh snowmobile tracks all over a road. The CO followed the tracks, as it was during the "quiet time" for operation during firearm deer season. The tracks led back to a nearby house and the snowmobile was parked next to an untagged spike buck. Further investigation revealed another spike buck tagged with a combination tag. Interview with the homeowner produced a "road kill permit" for the untagged deer, and no excuse for the combination license tag violation. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Jerry Fitzgibbon and Robert Crisp received a complaint of ORVs going off road and hunting early for muzzleloader season. A patrol in the area led to contact with two subjects on ORVs with empty bait bags. When presented with information of their machines matching the tracks in the snow going off road, the subjects led the COs to their blinds and then cleaned up their large bait piles. Tickets were issued for the illegal ORV operation and the illegal baiting.

CO John Wenzel received a complaint of overbaiting. Officer Wenzel located the large bait piles and then returned to the blinds in the muzzleloader season. The first blind contained a 16 year old hunting without adult supervision, an overlimit of bait and the juvenile was not in possession of his hunting license. The uncle was contacted in the other blind, approximately three-quarters of a mile away. The uncle had no hunter orange with him, an overlimit of bait, was hunting with a centerfire rifle, and had not purchased a hunting license. Several tickets were issued to the uncle and the minor was warned about his violations.

DISTRICT 3

While investigating a recreational trespass complaint, CO Duane Budreau observed two hunters riding on an ORV on the state rail-trail, which is closed to motor vehicle use. Neither subject was wearing a helmet, there was an uncased rifle, and one was a felon prohibited from possessing a firearm. In addition, they were suspects in the recreational trespass complaint. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Feagan had received a Report-All-Poaching (RAP) complaint of a non-resident hunting with resident licenses for several years, bragging about getting away with it. CO Feagan checked several times and was finally able to contact the suspect one of the last days of deer season. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Eric Bottorff investigated a complaint reported by a deer hunter involving a pick-up truck load of trash dumped on state land. Evidence in the garbage led to multiple interviews and a confession by a friend of the trash owners, who had helped them out by removing their trash and then disposing of it on state land. A ticket was issued to the dumper and the trash has been cleaned up.

On the last day of deer season, CO Andrea Erratt found a hunter walking a road almost an hour after hunting hours. The subject was intoxicated and his firearm was still loaded. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Andrea Erratt followed up on a complaint from opening day regarding an antler point restriction violation and untagged deer. The suspect stated he shot the three point buck in Otsego County, although witnesses indicated he shot it in Antrim County. The suspect's story eventually fell apart and he was ticketed.

While en route to a complaint of an untagged deer, CO Andrea Erratt received a message that the complainant called back and said to disregard, the deer was tagged. CO Erratt continued to the location and found an untagged deer. A ticket was issued.

Sgt. Greg Drogowski responded to a RAP complaint on Thanksgiving Day involving recreational trespass and hunting from a motor vehicle, where a deer was shot. The complainant was able to get a license plate number and other detailed information. The suspect's family Thanksgiving dinner was interrupted, subjects were interviewed and confessions received. Enforcement action was taken and the deer seized.

CO Carl VanderWall located a vehicle in a remote area of state land and followed tracks through the snow that led to a subject hunting in a tree stand. The subject was a tribal hunter who was without hunter orange, without a tribal kill tag, and had failed to put identification on the stand. The subject was turned over to tribal COs for enforcement.

CO Eric Bottorff responded to a complaint from an elk hunter who shot and wounded an elk. CO Bottorff determined that the elk was shot on state land and tracked the elk onto private property. The land owner was contacted and the hunting party was able to

continue tracking the elk. The hunter was eventually able to recover his elk on that private property.

CO Bill Webster checked an ice angler who had three tip-ups out and was using a jig pole. When the CO contacted him he stated he was surprised to see a CO due to the two to three inches of ice on the lake. He was ticketed for fishing with too many lines.

CO Bill Webster contacted a hunter who was hunting over an apple tree. When asked if he knew why the CO was checking him, he stated he was not baiting. CO Webster agreed he was hunting over an apple tree, but noted that apples grown in the wild did not come with grocery store stickers on them. The hunter admitted to putting more apples under the tree and was ticketed for hunting over bait.

CO Bill Webster and Sgt. Joe Molnar were checking state land when CO Webster located an illegal blind with bait in front of it, and ORV tracks leading to the blind. CO Webster followed the trail and met Sgt. Molnar at a nearby residence. The COs contacted the homeowner, who was skinning a buck which did not have a license attached to it. The hunter eventually admitted to shooting the deer four days prior and not tagging the deer. He was ticketed for his violations.

CO Kelly Ross and Sgt. Joe Molnar are continuing an investigation of a cow elk which was shot by a deer hunter in Montmorency County. Anyone with information is asked to contact the Gaylord DNR office at 989-732-3541 or the RAP hotline at 1-800-292-7800.

CO Steve Speigl was routinely checking ice anglers in Antrim County when he observed the tail of a fish wedged between buckets in a sled. Closer inspection revealed a northern pike that appeared to be undersized. The angler then stumbled through several excuses, finally landing on, "I thought this was a no-size limit pike lake." CO Speigl reminded the angler that there is only one lake in Antrim County like that, and the lake he was fishing on was not it. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 4

CO Steve Converse responded to a complaint of a subject who had posted a picture of a deer he had supposedly harvested in October on his Facebook page. The complainant stated he had information that the subject didn't have a valid license to hunt deer. CO Converse went to the suspect residence to look into the information and when there discovered a freshly taken deer hanging in the garage. Further investigation led to CO Converse issuing tickets for the illegal taking of two deer without licenses.

CO Carla Soper responded to a complaint of subjects keeping undersized Brown Trout at Tippy Dam on the Big Manistee River. CO Soper was able to make contact with a group of non-resident anglers who were hiding the Trout in a plastic grocery bag underneath a log. One subject admitted that he was responsible for keeping all of the Trout and wanted them for Christmas dinner. The subject was ticketed for possessing an overlimit and given a warning for the possession of the undersized Trout.

CO Jeff Ginn responded to a traffic stop where a Michigan State Police (MSP) trooper had stopped a vehicle for shining in November. The traffic stop resulted in the discovery of open intoxicants, two loaded and uncased firearms and an untagged deer in the bed of the suspect's pickup truck. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Ginn observed a vehicle driving very slow on a seasonal road on the last day of the regular firearm deer season. Upon further observation, CO Ginn noted the driver's side window was rolled down. CO Ginn contacted the driver, who stated he was just looking around for any deer sign. When CO Ginn asked if the subject had a firearm, the driver stated he had a rifle on the back seat. CO Ginn asked to inspect the gun, which was later found to be uncased and loaded in both the barrel and magazine. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Jeff Ginn and Brian Lebel were working in conjunction with the MSP and local deputies along M-37 in northern Newaygo County. The officers were working a traffic detail at the time and would inform the COs if there were any deer in or upon the motor vehicles they checked. As a result of their activity, the COs were able to contact several successful hunters. A few of these contacts also resulted in tickets being issued for transporting untagged deer and taking deer without licenses.

CO Brian Lebel reported that two separate subjects in Osceola County involving violations of shooting deer with firearms during the archery season plead guilty and each were assessed \$1425 fines, costs and restitution along with the loss of all hunting privileges for four years.

CO Brian Lebel observed two subjects walking a remote ditch in an area that he had received reports of trap theft. CO Lebel was able to locate a dead Raccoon in the bed of the subject's pickup truck. One of the subjects was uncooperative upon contact and later found to have two outstanding warrants for his arrest and was currently on a 12 year hunting and trapping revocation due to multiple convictions of hunting infractions. The second subject did not possess a valid fur harvester license but claimed that the Raccoon was hers. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Angela Greenway received a complaint of a spike buck hanging in a tree outside of a cabin in one of the new antler point restriction counties. CO Greenway responded to the location and conducted an interview with the subject that killed the buck. The subject admitted to shooting the deer in the antler point restriction county. Further inspection revealed that the subject also failed to validate his kill tag on the deer. The buck was seized and enforcement action was taken.

CO Angela Greenway was on patrol through state lands on the last day of the firearm deer season. CO Greenway came across a vehicle in a remote area with several occupants observed to be moving frantically after they noticed the approaching patrol truck. CO Greenway contacted the occupants and located an uncased rifle with the action jammed with three rounds. The passenger who was frantically trying to unload the rifle after noticing the patrol truck had jammed the rifle. CO Greenway was able to

confirm that the firearm belonged to the driver and the passenger was his wife who was unfamiliar with how to unload it properly. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Troy VanGelderren was on patrol and stopped a vehicle for a seat belt violation. During the traffic stop, CO VanGelderren discovered two uncased and loaded rifles in the back seat of the SUV. The driver stated that he and his son had just finished deer hunting. A check with the retail sales system revealed that neither subject had purchased a hunting license. The driver was also operating on a suspended license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Troy VanGelderren received a call from a complainant who stated they had earlier hunted deer in an orchard and upon leaving after dark, observed a pickup truck with a trailer attached that wasn't parked there in the afternoon. CO VanGelderren responded to the area suspecting possible deer poaching. Due to several recent B&Es in the area, CO VanGelderren also contacted a Sergeant with the Oceana County Sheriff's Department. Once in the area, the CO took up surveillance of the parked truck and trailer. After a period of time, the CO heard a UTV returning through the orchard running without lights. CO VanGelderren was able to follow the vehicle until they reached the suspect vehicle where two subjects realized they were being followed and fled on foot. CO VanGelderren received assistance from local deputies, where responding officers determined that the UTV had just been stolen. The officers were able to develop the identity of two suspects from the truck's registration and ID left in the vehicle. The next morning, one of the suspects was picked up while hitchhiking in the area. The second suspect later turned himself in. Follow-up investigation cleared up over a dozen B&Es over several counties targeting ORVs, firearms and tools.

CO Troy VanGelderren was on patrol and stopped to check on an illegal hunting blind on state land when he observed a vehicle parked near the location. CO VanGelderren located footprints in the snow leading the opposite direction of the blind. CO VanGelderren followed two sets of footprints; one set went directly around to the blind and then left. CO VanGelderren continued to follow that track and located a loaded firearm leaning against a tree. The CO secured the firearm and continued following the tracks until they met up with another set of tracks and went up a ridge. The CO then located a cocked crossbow with no one around. CO VanGelderren continued following the tracks that eventually circled back around and made contact with two subjects who, after being interviewed, admitted they were on the run because they were hunting without licenses. The weapons were not returned and enforcement action was taken.

CO Troy VanGelderren received a trespass complaint where two subjects had tracked an antlerless deer onto adjacent property. The property owner heard shots and witnessed the doe die on his property. The landowner made contact with the two subjects and gave them permission to recover their deer. The trespassers stated that it was shot by a third party who had already left and that they did not have any antlerless tags. CO VanGelderren arrived and interviewed the two subjects involved and discovered that there was no third individual; that one of the subjects had shot the doe

and there was no valid antlerless tag. The deer was seized and enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Wells responded to a trespass complaint called in by a sheriff's deputy. CO Wells determined that a deer was harvested and had traveled onto an adjacent property. The hunter claimed his child shot the deer and he was just trying to retrieve it. CO Wells was able to obtain admissions from the hunter that he had harvested the deer and had tagged the deer with a mentored youth hunting license. The mentored youth was not present at the time of harvest. The subject's 15 year old son was also present and hunting without a license. Enforcement action was taken against the adult with verbal warnings issued to the juveniles.

DISTRICT 5

While assisting local deputies on an assault case, CO Mark Papineau discovered numerous deer hanging in the garage. CO Papineau began to question the subjects about the deer and inquire about their licenses. The five people involved in the assault had been hunting together and each was in possession of the other's kill tags. CO Papineau was able to obtain a confession that one of the deer was killed by an unlicensed hunter and tagged with someone else's tag. Tickets were issued.

CO Jason McCullough responded to a complaint of a possible trespass. The landowner had located a blood trail as well as drag marks on his property. The property owner then located a second deer that had been shot on his property. While CO McCullough was investigating the complaint he observed the neighbor going into the woods for the afternoon hunt. The CO contacted the hunter, who admitted to shooting the two deer. The subject thought that he had only killed one deer; however, when he began looking for the deer he realized he had killed two deer. The subject did not have a license for the second deer so he left the deer in the woods so he could retrieve it after dark. The subject had brought out a crossbow and an archery license for the afternoon hunt.

CO Warren MacNeill put an end to a hunter harassment complaint. The case involved subjects who were upset with a property owner. The grandson was the recipient of the harassment as he was trying to hunt. CO MacNeill was able to gain a confession from one of the suspects and is currently trying to make contact with two more subjects.

CO Brian Olsen responded to a litter complaint on state land and located an address of the possible suspect within the litter pile. CO Olsen made several attempts to contact the suspect and on one attempt located evidence of a recent deer kill. After several attempts CO Olsen made contact with the suspect, who denied dumping the litter. Several interviews were conducted with the suspect and several of his roommates. CO Olsen was able to obtain a confession from the suspect on the litter pile, as well as subjects hunting without licenses and taking deer without a license.

CO Jon Warner responded to a trespass complaint, but the suspect had left the area before CO Warner could make contact with him. The property owner was able to give a

good description of the subject and vehicle and the CO was able to locate the vehicle, which was parked. CO Warner then tracked the subject into the woods and located him hunting without wearing hunter orange. As CO Warner talked with the subject he began to tell CO Warner about violations he observed while hunting. The subject took CO Warner to several locations on US Forest Service (USFS) land where the hunters had been overbaiting. CO Warner then contacted several subjects hunting over illegal bait piles as well as violating several USFS regulations.

CO Steve Lockwood located an untagged, partially processed deer carcass hanging at a residence. CO Lockwood knocked on the door and heard several voices inside. The inside of the residence then went silent and no one came to the door. CO Lockwood knocked on the door several more times with no answer. A short time later several subjects came to the house for a visit. The CO identified the subjects and asked about the deer. CO Lockwood was given the name of the subject who shot the deer who was also the owner of the residence. After some time the occupants of the residence came outside and stated they had a long night. The subject then showed the CO the tag for the deer that was attached to a leg on the ground under a bucket. The tag belonged to another subject. A confession was obtained for hunting without a license and using the kill tag of another.

CO Steve Lockwood made contact with a subject to check for deer hunting success. The subject stated that he had a deer in the garage and took the CO into the garage and showed him the freshly killed carcass of an antlerless deer. The subject then took a tag off of a chair and stated, "Here is the tag". As he handed the tag to the CO, he stated he was going to validate the tag. CO Lockwood observed the head of a four point on the floor of the garage and asked the subject about that deer. The subject advised that he'd shot the deer and he was going to put his tag on it. The CO asked the individual about tagging his deer and the subject stated he could tag it right now if he wanted him too. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Bowen received a complaint from township police officers who responded to a car/deer accident. The officers determined the individuals driving the car were not involved in a car/deer accident, but had struck a tree with their vehicle and attempted to cover it up by putting deer hair in the grill of the vehicle. CO Bowen assisted the officers at the subject's residence to investigate the deer used to cover up the accident. The deer was untagged and CO Bowen issued a ticket for the violation. In addition, the individual was in possession of a substantial number of sheriff's department uniform parts. The investigation is ongoing.

CO Mike Hearn was investigating a complaint involving trespassing and malicious destruction of property when he was attempting to contact a possible suspect at his residence. No one was home at the residence and as CO Hearn was leaving, he contacted the homeowner entering the driveway. The subject had an uncased loaded firearm in the vehicle, but was not the suspect on the original complaint. The individual was ticketed for transporting a loaded gun in a motor vehicle.

CO Chuck McPherson had been attempting to contact a hunter in an illegal blind on state land for the last five years. After numerous checks of the blind throughout the years, the CO was never able to catch the individual in the blind. On Thanksgiving Day, CO McPherson was able to close the case when he contacted a hunter in the blind. In addition to the blind being illegal, the individual was using more than two gallons of bait to hunt deer. The subject was ticketed.

COs Matt Liestenfeltz and Mike Hearn were on patrol when they observed a subject on an ORV operating without a helmet. The subject turned into a private camp where contact was made by the COs. The driver had a loaded gun on the ORV and had been hunting without wearing hunter orange. Further investigation at the camp led the COs to a deer tagged with a borrowed license which had been shot by another member at camp. Tickets were written for transporting a loaded gun on an ORV and using a borrowed license.

COs Chris Bowen and Chuck McPherson assisted in locating three lost hunters in Roscommon County. The hunters shot a deer at 7:30 a.m., tracked the deer for the better part of the day and eventually located the deer after walking a considerable distance through thick swamp in the late afternoon. The hunters were reported overdue and located by the COs at 5:00 p.m. the same day, extremely dehydrated.

CO Bobbi Lively was on patrol and heard a gunshot just before dark from an area with a known illegal blind. She investigated and located a hunter who indicated he had just shot at a doe, but missed. The CO determined he had not been hunting in the illegal blind. The hunter produced two hunting licenses and one did not belong to him. After a short interview, the hunter admitted to borrowing the antlerless permit. The owner of the license was located later that night and was ticketed for loaning a deer license.

CO Murray Cherry contacted an individual he had observed in a field with a flashlight after dark. As CO Cherry approached the subject began walking toward him. He told the CO he'd shot an eight point and had to go to the truck to get his license. CO Cherry walked with the individual back to the eight point buck, which had not been field dressed and had been dragged a substantial distance. It was obvious the hunter had seen the CO pull up and decided he better tag the deer. A ticket was issued.

CO Mike Hearn was called at home to assist local deputies on a traffic stop. A complainant witnessed the occupants of a vehicle shoot from the vehicle onto private property. They were following the vehicle until the deputies were able to make contact. CO Hearn arrived on scene and took over the investigation. The passenger said he shot his muzzleloader in the ditch to empty the gun. CO Hearn returned to the original location to verify the story and located where the subject shot out into the field, clearly at a deer and had missed. He returned to the location of the suspects and re-interviewed the passenger, who confessed to shooting at a deer from the vehicle. In addition, the driver admitted to assisting with the crime. The individuals were ticketed for possessing/transporting a loaded gun in a motor vehicle, recreational trespass, and attempting to take game from a motor vehicle.

DISTRICT 6

CO Bob Hobkirk received a complaint of a hunter trespassing on the complainant's farmland. When CO Hobkirk arrived at the location of the trespass, the suspect had gone back onto a neighboring property. With patchy snow covering the ground, CO Hobkirk was able to track the suspect through head high grass, where he was hiding. A recreational trespass ticket was issued.

On the first weekend of the muzzleloader season, CO Bob Hobkirk observed a truck sitting in a field after dark. When the truck came to the road, the CO contacted the two occupants. After checking the hunters and the deer in the bed of the truck, it was determined that the antlerless deer had been taken without the proper license. A ticket was issued to the hunter and the deer was seized.

CO Jason A. Smith had been working a complaint of an unlicensed hunter for several deer seasons and was able to finally make contact with the hunter. The subject was checked in the Retail Sales System and confirmed that he had not purchased a deer license since 2008. The subject also had a loaded and uncased firearm resting against the passenger seat inside his vehicle. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason A. Smith contacted a group of hunters and three of the five hunters in the group suffered from a hunter orange deficiency. The problem was remedied by handing out plastic orange vests and a ticket to go along with them.

CO Seth Rhodea received a complaint about a hunter witnessing a subject in a car pull up and shoot at a deer on private property. The witness knew the shooter and confronted him about his actions, as well as calling Sanilac County Dispatch. CO Rhodea was able to contact the shooter at his residence where the subject admitted to shooting the deer and accepted his ticket for trespassing.

CO Nick Atkin conducted a traffic stop of a vehicle whose occupants were shining for deer during November. During the investigation that took place on the traffic stop, the CO found the occupants were shining with a rifle in their possession. During questioning, the CO found out about an illegally taken deer and that licenses were loaned and borrowed to tag the deer by someone in the hunting party. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Nick Atkin was conducting surveillance on a group of hunters when he observed a truck pull into the field he was watching during prime time on the last afternoon of firearm deer season. The CO contacted the operator of the vehicle and found a loaded uncased rifle in the cab. During the investigation, the CO also found that the hunter was not wearing hunter orange, did not have hunting license on him, and the vehicle registration was expired with no valid insurance. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Lowell received a complaint of two subjects trespassing who had just shot a deer. The CO contacted the hunters just as they pulled the deer out of the field. The

subjects had shot a button buck without a license, on private property and the adult had warrants for his arrest. The 11 year old, who was hunting with his neighbor, actually shot the deer. He was taken back home where the CO dealt with the father. The neighbor was issued tickets and also taken to jail on the warrants.

Sgt. Ron Kimmerly received a complaint on the late season pheasant opener that there were road hunters attempting to take pheasants near the Shiawassee River State Game Area (SGA). When the Sgt. arrived in the area he observed several vehicles parked along the road, one hunter in the corn field with a dog paralleling the road and one vehicle driving slowly down the road. The Sgt. stopped the vehicle and found the passenger with an uncased shotgun on his lap. He also had no small game license. Tickets were issued.

Sgt. Ron Kimmerly was working two-tracks in Midland County and following a trail of beer cans that someone had been tossing out of a moving vehicle's window. The Sgt. found a parked vehicle with a half empty case of the same brand of beer cans. While the Sgt. waited for the hunter of the parked vehicle to return, a friend of the hunter drove up and the Sgt. asked how his hunt was. He advised he'd shot a six point and used his combination license. When the Sgt. asked to see his remaining tag the hunter handed him both combination license kill tags. The hunter advised he must have forgotten to tag it. The Sgt. advised he would follow him back to his residence to check the deer. Upon arrival, Sgt. Kimmerly found out that the suspect's brother shot an eight point that was already cut up and processed. The Sgt. then asked this hunter if he could see his deer tags. This hunter also had two unused combination license kill tags. He told the Sgt. that the only thing he knows is that he tagged it with something. He went on to say that it may have been the 2010 tag that was the same color as this year's tag. Tickets were issued to both.

CO Joel Lundberg contacted a hunter leaving the woods at dark and asked how deer season was going. The hunter advised he shot a buck with his bow before gun season opened. The CO asked the hunter for his hunting licenses, and the hunter still had all his hunting licenses in his pocket. The hunter had also purchased too many buck licenses. The CO followed the hunter to a parcel of state land where the hunter had disposed of his untagged deer. The CO was searching for the deer and located another dead skinned deer that had been illegally dropped on state land. The deer had a doe tag in its ear from an area across the state. The CO also heard a very close shot, and had an idea what residence the shot came from. The CO located the deer belonging to the hunter and issued a ticket for not tagging his deer, and confiscated the unused kill tag and his illegally purchased licenses. The CO then cleared and went to the residence next to the state land, where he contacted a hunter coming out of the woods. The hunter had shot at and missed a deer, and had not purchased a hunting license at all. He was ticketed for hunting without a license. The CO then ran the license number off the kill tag he found on the second dead deer and went down the road to where the hunter lived, and got a confession from the individual that he killed the doe in the wrong DMU area, put his wife's tag on the deer, then disposed of the deer on the public land. Tickets were issued.

COs Joel Lundberg and Quincy Gowenlock checked a hunter in a vehicle who stated he hadn't shot a deer since bow season. The hunter had fresh blood on his clothing and in the bed of his truck. The COs interviewed the hunter and learned the hunter shot an antlerless deer and did not tag it. When the COs advised the hunter they were going to follow him to his residence, the hunter advised he also shot a four point buck and did not tag that deer. The COs went to the residence and recovered two untagged deer, and found another buck belonging to a second hunter at the residence. Follow up with that hunter led to that eight point and another illegally tagged nine point at a taxidermist. All deer were seized and tickets were issued.

CO Joel Lundberg contacted a hunter on Thanksgiving Day who advised he had no luck this deer season. The hunter had an uncased firearm in the vehicle, and the CO advised he was going to give him a break and not issue a ticket if he put his gun in the case. The hunter was happy to get the gun case out and put his firearm in it. The CO then observed fresh blood on the gun case. A lengthy interview led to four illegally killed does and bucks. Tickets were issued.

While patrolling the Gratiot Saginaw SGA, CO Jeremy Payne witnessed a vehicle operating slowly in a remote area. The CO immediately pulled up next to the vehicle when it suddenly stopped; both occupants exited and approached the CO. Both hunters asked numerous questions about hunting in the area and the type of deer they would expect to see. The hunters attempted to divert the CO from looking inside the vehicle where there was an uncased loaded 30-30 rifle. The passenger told the CO he was just getting a ride to his hunting location and didn't think it was a big deal having an uncased loaded firearm in a motor vehicle. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling the roads in Isabella County, CO Jeremy Payne observed a baseball cap in the middle of the road. The CO continued to patrol and within a quarter mile located a side by side ORV stuck in a ditch with damage to the roof. The CO followed the footprint in the snow and immediately located an elderly male walking on a two track in the woods. The elderly male was not dressed appropriately for the conditions, was extremely cold and looking for his hat. He was placed into CO Payne's patrol truck to warm up while it was determined where he lived. The CO returned the elderly man with Alzheimer's back to his family to which they were very thankful. The side by side was recovered by the family.

As firearm deer season was coming to a close, CO Dan Lee contacted three hunters in a truck. The back seat passenger had an uncased rifle in the truck. The group said they were waiting for two others in their hunting party to arrive and that the others had shot two does. The two hunters took an unusually long time to travel such a short distance, and when they arrived they did not have any deer, but the back of the vehicle was covered in fresh blood. The CO discussed the situation with the group and they took him to the two antlerless deer they had dumped when they had heard their companions were with a conservation officer. Neither of the deer were tagged and neither of the hunters had legal tags for the deer. Tickets were issued.

CO Dan Lee assisted an officer with the US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) with a trespass case near the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge. A permitted hunter on the Refuge became bored during the antlerless hunt and proceeded to drive around the adjoining property where he shot at a deer on private property in full view of the landowners. The hunter left the scene and returned in a different vehicle with a partner and proceeded to enter the private property to search for the deer. The USFWS officer contacted the hunters as they exited the woods. Both were ticketed for trespass and the shooter was not in possession of a valid deer tag to take deer in the refuge.

DISTRICT 7

CO Chris Simpson was patrolling during the firearm deer season when he observed a group of hunters walking through the woods. As CO Simpson checked one hunter, another announced, "I couldn't push anything to you" to another hunter. Certain that he had observed that hunter carrying a long gun, CO Simpson entered the woods and located a gun that had been concealed by the hunter. The hunter advised he was "tagged out" and only had a private land antlerless tag for another area with him. He was ticketed for hunting without a license.

CO Steve Orange had responded to a complaint of ORVs in the Lowell SGA where he had begun a search; however, he was pulled away by another call of shots fired on private land right at dark. Responding with local deputies, officers patrolled and continued to watch the area of the complaint for some time after dark. Deputies located a vehicle leaving the orchard and CO Orange went to this location to conduct an interview of two subjects hunting raccoons. A partially cased rifle with loaded magazine was located inside the truck and enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Holmes received a tip that a subject had three deer hanging in his garage. CO Holmes followed up on the information and found that all three deer were tagged, but after several interviews found numerous violations. The deer were shot prior to purchasing licenses, licenses were loaned or borrowed and one subject purchased licenses without first taking Hunter Safety.

CO Chris Holmes received information that a subject had a deer head and several dead squirrels on his porch. CO Holmes was familiar with the suspect and knew he had several warrants for his arrest. CO Holmes responded to the apartment to investigate further and saw a subject run from the parking lot, grab the deer head and enter the apartment. CO Holmes radioed for additional police units and went to the apartment door. CO Holmes was confronted by another person at the apartment door and finally contacted the subject who had run into the apartment with the deer head. The subject gave him a bogus name, but after further investigation it was found the subject who had run into the apartment was the subject wanted on outstanding warrants. The subject was issued a ticket for a tagging violation and lodged in the Kalamazoo County Jail for the assault, drug, probation violation and driving with a suspended license warrants.

COs Chuck Towns and Michael Mshar assisted in the search for a lost hunter in the Allegan SGA. It had been identified that the subject was diabetic and severely cold and had become disoriented. Tracking conditions had become hampered due to snowfall, but with the landscape description the lost hunter had provided and triangulation methods used by shotgun fire they were able to locate the subject and return him safely to his vehicle. The subject was provided with food and water by CO Mshar to aid his medical condition and body temperature.

Sgt. Jeff Rabbers responded to a waterfowl trespass complaint received from a local landowner. He was able to locate the hunters just before they ended their hunt. When asked if they knew who the landowner was and if they had permission the hunt leader indicated he had been given permission to hunt that field during the summer. When contact was made with the landowner by Sgt. Rabbers it was determined that three years earlier one of the subjects had been given permission to hunt other property owned by the complainant and had been told that was the only area he could hunt and needed to request permission each time he went out hunting. Three Canada Geese and two mallards were confiscated and the subjects were issued tickets per the landowner's request.

CO Steve Mooney received a trespass complaint about two subjects in a canoe. CO Mooney was able to walk back into the section and located the two subjects, deer hunting from the canoe without permission. CO Mooney observed that the two subjects were using a post hole digger as a paddle and one of the subjects did not have his kill tag in his possession. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 8

CO Rich Nickols took a complaint from central dispatch of a bullet that went through a window and interior wall of a house. CO Nickols was able to determine the location of the shooter and found fresh deer tracks near that location. After conducting interviews, CO Nickols found two hunters who were in the area that afternoon and they both shot at a deer. Both were using the same ammunition as the bullet that was recovered from the house. The homeowner knew the hunters and did not want charges filed.

CO Rich Nickols conducted a processor inspection on the opening weekend of the muzzleloader season. The first deer CO Nickols looked at had a military antlerless tag purchased on the day prior but validated for November 24th. CO Nickols went to the subject's residence and found him just pulling out of the driveway to go hunting. After a short interview, the subject admitted to shooting the deer on public land in Gratiot County. The subject had a valid license for the deer but wanted to shoot another doe. When he went to buy another antlerless license, he found the DMU was sold out so he purchased whatever was available and put that license on the deer. The subject was sold a military license in error because he had a retired military ID.

While investigating an ongoing complaint of road hunting before daylight on Thanksgiving morning, CO Damon Owens and Sgt. Troy Bahlau located a subject in full

camouflage with a shotgun crossing a dead end road to enter a section of the north branch of the Kalamazoo River. Contact was made with the subject who stated he had wounded a duck and was attempting to locate it. The subject stated he did not have his hunting license on his person but assured the COs that he did have a small game license. Investigation revealed that the subject was a non-resident and was hunting without a state waterfowl license, federal waterfowl stamp or a small game license. Enforcement action was taken.

On Thanksgiving Day, CO Damon Owens and Sgt. Troy Bahlau responded to vague complaint of a deer carcass that was dumped and that was missing its hindquarters. After patrolling the area where the violation had taken place, the COs located the untagged carcasses and a subject who was in possession of a loaded firearm in a motor vehicle and hindquarters of deer in his garage. The subject was ticketed for the firearm violation, and forensic investigation along with a report is pending for the illegally taken deer.

CO Dan Bigger conducted an evening patrol for after-hours hunting and possible hunting from a vehicle in the less traveled roads in the county. Just before the end of legal hunting hours, CO Bigger observed a van on the side of the road next to a field with deer standing in it. CO Bigger observed the subject in the van and noted there was no movement. CO Bigger approached the van and contacted the subject to see if everything was OK. When asked if he was OK, he looked at CO Bigger and stated "NO". The subject lifted his hands in the air showing a towel that was saturated with blood. CO Bigger asked what had happened and if he wanted help. The subject said yes and had a hard time getting out of the vehicle. CO Bigger learned that while attempting to use a cigar cutter, he cut the tip of his thumb almost completely off and he was losing a lot of blood. CO Bigger was able to flip the tip of the thumb back into the proper position and apply pressure to stop the bleeding. CO Bigger then put more dressing on the wound and taped the subject's hand to prevent it from moving. The subject then refused any further medical treatment and stated he was going to go get it sewn back on. The subject got into the vehicle, lit the cigar, and left.

CO Pete Purdy assisted the sheriff's department with a 911 call of a subject attempting to commit suicide. The subject took a large amount of prescription pills and drove away from his home. CO Purdy while on foot searching for the subject observed the subject in his vehicle attempting to drive away. CO Purdy and two deputies detained the subject until emergency medical personnel arrived and took the subject to the hospital.

CO Jeff Goss responded to an anonymous complaint of an untagged deer hanging in a barn. On the way to the complaint CO Goss discovered that the subject had not purchased a deer license this year. Upon making contact with the subject, he told CO Goss that his soon-to-be stepson shot the deer and couldn't find his tag. When asked where the stepson was, the man explained that he was at his dad's house. The man started going through the step son's hunting clothes and pulled out a valid deer license and said "Here it is; I guess we can just go put this on the deer". CO Goss explained that it wasn't that easy and he needed to talk to the stepson. By now the boy's mother

had joined the conversation and after a while she went in and got her son, who was in the house all along. The mother gave consent for CO Goss to question the boy in his patrol truck, and after several minutes the boy continued to tell him that he shot the deer. After a while the boy's mother came out and the CO explained that he was going to be talking to the boy's dad and would find out the truth. Shortly after that she suggested that they go back in and talk to the stepdad. Upon talking with the man for a few more minutes, he finally confessed to shooting the deer without a license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Goss was patrolling a property well known for trespass issues and observed a truck that was slowly rolling through a corn field near first light. The driver saw CO Goss at the same time and stopped near a building. When the subject realized that CO Goss was turning around, he took off. CO Goss conducted a traffic stop upon catching up with the subject vehicle. When asked what he was doing on the property, he advised that he was just glassing for deer. When asked if he had any firearms in the vehicle, he said yes. When asked if it was unloaded and in a case he said yes. CO Goss asked if he could look at the weapon to verify that it was being transported legally. As the man was showing CO Goss his shotgun, he took another hard gun case and threw it up on top of a pile of stuff on the back seat. Upon taking a closer look, it was discovered that the man was trying to conceal an uncased muzzleloader that he had on the back seat. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Goss worked a complaint where nine deer carcasses were dumped next to the road. One carcass had a Michigan deer license on it. The owner of the tag explained that she had been hunting with a friend on opening morning and she shot a deer. She said she gave it to her friend because he needed the meat. The friend had not purchased a deer license until the afternoon on opening day. He shot the deer and didn't have a license so his female friend put her tag on the deer. When asked who dumped the carcasses the man advised that he had a local guy cut the deer up for him and the meat was still at the processor. At the processor, it was discovered that the man was operating an illegal processing business. There were no records kept for the deer being processed, and there were six untagged deer currently being cut. The man said he didn't know to whom the deer belonged because he wasn't around when they showed up. When CO Goss reminded him that they were his deer now, he changed his tune and started remembering things. After several minutes, the business owner and one of the meat cutters were separated and interviewed separately. It was discovered that the meat cutter had killed five does and one buck but had only purchased one antlerless license for the season. When asked which deer he put the tag on, the man produced his unused doe tag out of his pocket. The processor denied having dumped the carcasses. When CO Goss advised the subject about the advances in DNA testing and assured him that they would match the DNA from the carcasses to his truck, he quickly confessed. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Goss was checking a local internet buck pole contest and located a suspicious deer. Upon interviewing the 14 year old hunter, it was discovered that her father had failed to purchase her deer license until after she shot the deer. The father told CO

Goss that she had been deer hunting for three years and that if he checked the records, they would show that he has purchased licenses in the past for her. A check of the records revealed no prior deer hunting licenses for the girl. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Derek Miller responded to a complaint of two subjects tracking a deer through someone's back yard in a subdivision and fired a shot very close to the house. CO Miller was able to track the subject through the woods, back to their parked vehicle. The subjects hunting and tracking the deer originally denied being close to the house, and stated they were not trespassing. A brief interview revealed that the subjects took their last shot at the deer near a no trespassing sign, and near a trash pile. Back at the scene, CO Miller measured from the location of the last shot to the house. The shot was fired 55 yards from the complainant's kitchen window. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Derek Miller responded to a complaint of subjects with firearms and in tree stands hunting on December 1st. On the way to the complaint, the CO also received a phone call from another police agency stating they were out trying to find a subject who was shooting at deer with a firearm. CO Miller arrived on scene and conducted an interview and an investigation. Officer Miller was able to obtain a confession to the man shooting at deer in a field with a shotgun in the direction of bow hunters, who witnessed the entire act. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason Smith was patrolling state land when he observed a vehicle slowly drive past him with neither the driver nor passenger wearing seatbelts. CO Smith conducted a traffic stop and discovered the passenger had an outstanding warrant with a bond totaling \$191,719. Bond could not be posted and the passenger was lodged in the county jail.

DISTRICT 9

CO Mark Ennett completed an investigation of a RAP complaint of a hunter afield with a rifle. He interviewed the suspect and found he was afield with a muzzleloader and was only out for a short time. With information from Station 20, CO Ennett learned that the hunter had purchased too many deer hunting licenses this season. The complainant thought the hunter's muzzleloader was a rifle when he made the call. CO Ennett ticketed him for the multiple purchases.

While checking hunters at the Pointe Mouillee SGA, CO Dan Walzak was contacted by an individual who asked if anyone had turned in a lost shotgun. CO Walzak told the hunter that he was not aware of anyone finding or returning a lost shotgun. Disappointed, the subject went on to explain how he had lost the shotgun and gave the CO a detailed description of the lost property. CO Walzak took down contact information and assured the hunter that he would be contacted if it was found. About three hours later, almost 10 miles away from where the shotgun was lost, and seven hours after it was lost, another subject flagged down CO Walzak along the road to

report that he had found a shotgun at Pointe Mouillee. The description matched that given by the owner and the individual led the CO to his residence where he turned over the lost property. When CO Walzak commended the man for his honesty the individual simply replied, "It's the right thing to do." The shotgun was delivered to the grateful owner along with the name and telephone number of the individual who found it.

CO Mike Drexler was on patrol in Monroe County when he observed what appeared to be two subjects in the woods behind a residence who were hunting and not wearing hunter orange. CO Drexler investigated further and found both subjects were hunting small game without wearing hunter orange. CO Drexler has had prior enforcement contact with both subjects in the past, one of whom currently has his hunting privileges revoked due to an illegal deer case he was convicted of last year. The subject has been arrested by CO Drexler three times in 13 months. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brandon Kieft responded to a complaint of recreational trespass in Milford Township. While en route to the location, CO Kieft contacted the complainant and was advised that the two subjects were walking out to the road at that time. CO Kieft contacted Milford Township Police Department for assistance and they were able to hold one subject while the other was still hiding on the property. After CO Kieft arrived on scene, the other subject eventually emerged from the property. CO Kieft recognized the second subject was someone he had ticketed for hunting violations a few years earlier. Both subjects were ticketed for recreational trespass and the second was also ticketed for no hunter orange.

CO Brandon Kieft was patrolling state land in the Holly Recreation Area when he observed two hunters exiting the woods just after legal hunting hours. Both men were wearing camouflage clothing with hunter orange. When they noticed CO Kieft, both men quickly put down their hunting equipment. While contacting the hunters, CO Kieft recognized one of the men as someone he and CO Ben Shively had just ticketed four days earlier. The other man was unable to provide any hunting licenses and claimed to be just "watching" the first hunter. When CO Kieft questioned the hunters about the firearm and crossbow they had set down as he approached, they claimed the crossbow was for "target practice." With no target in site and only broadheads on the bolts, CO Kieft didn't buy their story. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brandon Kieft responded to a complaint of a "stolen deer" in Rose Township. When CO Kieft met with the complainant he advised that he had been tracking an antlerless deer he shot around dusk and witnessed two male subjects load it onto an ORV and leave the area. After obtaining an address from the complainant, CO Kieft conducted follow up with the homeowner. An untagged antlerless deer was located inside a detached barn on the property. The homeowner advised that his son had shot the deer that evening. CO Kieft had the son respond back to his parent's house to investigate the complaint further. After interviewing the son, it was determined that he had not purchased any antlerless deer licenses this season. However, he was adamant he shot the deer from his tree stand. After checking both properties and walking each blood trail, CO Kieft determined that both subjects had shot two different antlerless deer.

The wounded deer had crossed in the woods and caused the blood trails to intersect. The complainant's deer was not "stolen" but the blood trail was eventually lost. The other hunter was ticketed for taking a deer without a license and that deer was seized.

CO Ben Shively was checking Horseshoe Lake SGA when he observed two ORVs operating on the roadway. One ORV was operating with the flow of traffic with a double rider and the second ORV was operating against the flow of traffic as they were going up a blind hill. CO Shively was able to stop the ORVs as they were pulling into a storage unit facility. CO Shively contacted the subjects and found that one subject was operating with a suspended/revoked license, operating on a public roadway, no eye protection, no helmet on passenger, double rider, no ORV licenses, no spark arrestors, fail to transfer titles, careless operation, and ORV trespass as they were coming from gravel pit property. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Kovach reports the disposition of a case involving a subject who shined during the month of November with a weapon loaded in the motor vehicle. The case was adjudicated this week in the St. Clair County Court system. The subject pled guilty this week and was fined more than \$900 for the violations.

CO Ken Kovach finished up an investigation on a trespass/shots fired case. Apparently, a subject shot a pheasant while road hunting in St. Clair County. CO Kris Kiel assisted by interviewing the suspect down in St. Clair Shores. The testimony the subject gave CO Kiel did not match up to the complainant's testimony. CO Ken Kovach questioned the suspect a second time and he admitted to the crimes. The suspect openly admitted that he shot the pheasant on private property that he had no permission to be on, and he shot it out of a motor vehicle, all the while his weapon was loaded and uncased.

CO Kris Kiel was patrolling St. Clair County when he observed a vehicle suspected of road hunting. When the subject pulled into a field, the CO pulled in behind him. CO Kiel asked the subject what he was doing and if he had a firearm in the vehicle. The subject said that he did have a firearm, but did not have an intelligent answer for why he was driving around during prime time on the last day of the firearm deer season. When the CO asked how his season was, the subject stated that he shot a four point on the second day. When asked for a hunting license, the subject produced both combination licenses. When asked what he had tagged the four point with, the subject said "My first gun license". The combination licenses were seized and enforcement action was taken.

CO Kris Kiel finally caught up to a subject who owns two very distinctive dogs that have been seen chasing deer and were caught on trail cameras multiple times. The CO had even observed the dogs off the property with no one home at the residence. The dog owner was not surprised to see the CO, knowing that his dogs run "all the time". Enforcement action was taken.